



South Carolina Department of Public Safety

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 28, 2010

CONTACT: Sgt. Kelley Hughes, 803-530-1664

HIGHWAY PATROL GRADUATES 44 HIGHWAY PATROL TROOPERS

COLUMBIA -- The South Carolina Highway Patrol announced today the graduation of 44 troopers from Basic Class 88. The new troopers will begin work in their assigned posts on June 2, 2010.

This is the first graduating trooper class since December 2008. This brings the total number of troopers in South Carolina to 846.

The troopers began training in January and have been trained by the Highway Patrol and Criminal Justice Academy. Over the past 19 weeks, they have been trained in all areas of law enforcement including DUI detection, traffic laws, collision investigation and the use of firearms.

The Patrol presents awards to outstanding troopers from each graduating class. Winners from the 88th class include:

- **William M. Lee Jr., Winner of the Colonel P.F. Thompson Outstanding Achievement Award:** for the trooper who displays the character and dedication symbolic of former Highway Patrol Colonel P.F. Thompson, the longest serving Patrol commander. **William M. Lee Jr. was also winner of the Captain Cecil Dilworth Marksmanship Award:** presented to the trooper who had the best marksmanship during firearms training. (photo attached)
- **Bridget Wyant, Winner of the Israel Brooks Jr. Physical Fitness Award:** presented to the trooper who excelled on the physical training test and excelled each day during the early morning exercises. (photo attached)
** This is the first time a female has ever won this award.

Attached is a list of graduating troopers, their ages, home counties and assigned counties. Their photos are available to be downloaded from: http://www.schp.org/cro/current_events.html.



Basic 88 Roster

Colonel Lancaster Speech at Graduation

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South Carolina Department of Public Safety

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 20, 2011

CONTACT: Cpl. Bryan McDougald, 803-260-4497

SC HIGHWAY PATROL GRADUATES 35 TROOPERS

COLUMBIA -- The South Carolina Highway Patrol announced the graduation of 35 troopers from Highway Patrol Basic Class 89 on Friday, May 20, 2011. Gov. Nikki Haley spoke to the graduates.

In her address, Governor Haley said, "When you go out on the streets, you will automatically have power with that uniform. The way you treat people matters. Think about how you want to be remembered by the people that you helped, by those that you arrest, by the public in South Carolina...My job as governor is to do everything I can to keep you safe. We will do all we can to fund you in a way that you are never hurting, that you feel respect."

"We are pleased to see these new Troopers choose one of the more challenging areas of public service -- law enforcement," said Mark Keel, Director of the South Carolina Department of Public Safety. "And we are honored to have them join the ranks of the South Carolina Highway Patrol."

Colonel Kenny Lancaster Jr. reminded graduates: "How you handle every traffic stop, every call for service is important -- not just to you -- but to the integrity of this uniform. As a law enforcement officer, you are -- and always will be -- judged more harshly than everyone else. And fairly so. The public has every right to the expectation of fairness, ethics and honesty from those sworn to serve and protect them."

Basic 89 is the first graduating trooper class since May 2010 and brings the total number of troopers in South Carolina to 810.

The Patrol presents awards to outstanding troopers from each graduating class. Winners from the 89th class include:

- **Christopher C. Quinn:** **Winner of the Colonel P.F. Thompson Outstanding Achievement Award:** for the trooper who displays the character and dedication symbolic of former Highway Patrol Colonel P.F. Thompson, the longest serving Patrol commander.
- **Stephen D. Southerland:** **Captain Cecil Dilworth Marksmanship Award:** presented to the trooper who had the best marksmanship during firearms training.
- **Christopher C. Quinn:** **Winner of the Israel Brooks Jr. Physical Fitness Award:** presented to the trooper who excelled on the physical training test and excelled each day during the early morning exercises.

The troopers began training in January and have been trained by the Highway Patrol and Criminal Justice Academy. Over the past 19 weeks, they have been trained in all areas of law enforcement including DUI detection, traffic laws, collision investigation and the use of firearms. The new troopers will begin work in their assigned posts on May 26, 2011.

Attached is a list of graduating troopers, ages, home counties and assigned counties. Individual photos are available to be downloaded from:

<http://www.scdps.gov/schp/class89pictures.asp>

www.scdps.gov

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Media: Individual photos of the graduates and award winners can be found at this link: <http://www.SCDPS.GOV/schp/class91pictures.asp>



Left: Tarah J. Andre hugs classmates after graduation. Andre will be serving in Charleston/Berkeley. Right: Gov. Haley addresses graduates.



South Carolina Department of Public Safety

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 20, 2012
Contact: Sgt. Bob Beres, 803-608-8013

SC HIGHWAY PATROL GRADUATES 36 NEW TROOPERS *Gov. Nikki Haley Addresses Graduates*

COLUMBIA -- The South Carolina Highway Patrol announces the graduation of 36 troopers from Highway Patrol Basic Class 91 on Thursday. Gov. Nikki Haley spoke to the graduates about leadership, ethics and the sacrifices of law enforcement and the military. She has spoken at the last three Highway Patrol graduation ceremonies.

"With this uniform comes great responsibility," Gov. Haley told the graduates. "You are a trooper in uniform and out...The person to your left and to your right are depending on you. I am one proud governor today and I know you are ready. You make us proud. Go out there and do what you are trained to do."

SCDPS Director Leroy Smith said, "These 36 newly trained troopers represent the future of the South Carolina Highway Patrol, and they come at a critically important time when law enforcement is doing everything in our power to drive down fatality and DUI numbers."

Basic 91 will bring the total number of troopers in South Carolina to 771. The troopers began training in July and have been trained by the Highway Patrol and Criminal Justice Academy over the past 21 weeks in all areas of law enforcement including DUI detection, traffic laws, collision investigation and the use of firearms.

This is the first time that troopers and State Transport Police officers, both SCDPS divisions, have trained side-by-side for most of their time in Patrol school. The State Transport Police class graduated on December 14 and has begun work. In another first for the department, troopers trained in the field for three weeks beginning on November 6 and then returned to the academy to continue specialized training before graduation. They will begin work with their field training officers as early as this weekend.

Col. Mike Oliver, commander of the Highway Patrol, said: "You will soon learn what it is like to be a trooper. The long hours of collision investigation and traffic enforcement are obvious and inevitable. You will feel the pride and accomplishment of knowing that the drunk driver you arrested will not hurt anyone tonight. But also, you will share the pain of a family as you deliver a death message to their door."

The Patrol presents awards to outstanding troopers from each graduating class. Winners from the 91st class include:

- **Matthew Moser: Winner of the Colonel P.F. Thompson Outstanding Achievement Award:** for the trooper who displays the character and dedication symbolic of former Highway Patrol Colonel P.F. Thompson, the longest serving Patrol commander.
- **Gabriel M. Colbert: Captain Cecil Dilworth Marksmanship Award:** presented to the trooper who had the best marksmanship during firearms training.
- **Joseph Ragazzo: Winner of the Israel Brooks Jr. Physical Fitness Award:** presented to the trooper who excelled on the physical training test and excelled each day during the early morning exercises.

Troopers are assigned to areas based upon population, calls for service, and the number of licensed drivers/registered vehicles in an area. The troopers from Basic 91 will go to the following areas.

Attached is a list of graduating troopers, home counties and assigned counties. Individual photos are available to be downloaded from: <http://www.SCDPS.GOV/schp/class91pictures.asp>

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South Carolina Department of Public Safety

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 19, 2013

Contact: Sgt. Bob Beres, 803-608-8013

SC HIGHWAY PATROL GRADUATES 37 NEW TROOPERS
Gov. Nikki Haley Addresses Graduates



(click photos to enlarge)

COLUMBIA -- The South Carolina Highway Patrol announces the graduation of 37 troopers from Highway Patrol Basic Class 93 on Thursday. Gov. Nikki Haley spoke to the graduates for the fifth consecutive graduation.

Haley said to the new graduates, "You were tested physically and you succeeded. You were tested mentally and you proved you were up for the challenge. And now you wear the uniform, and that uniform means so much. When you walk into a room, you are automatically respected."

Basic 93 will bring the total number of troopers in South Carolina to 773. The troopers began training in July and have been trained by the Highway Patrol and Criminal Justice Academy over the past 21 weeks in all areas of law enforcement including DUI detection, traffic laws, collision investigation and the use of firearms as well as three weeks of field training for a total of 24 weeks of training.

"This is a proud day for the State of South Carolina when we can add such an outstanding group of men and women to our ranks and strengthen our law enforcement presence statewide," said SCDPS Director Leroy Smith. "We are grateful for the continued support of Gov. Haley and our State Legislature to help make our roadways safer."

Col. Mike Oliver encouraged Basic 93 to continue to build upon the tradition and legacy of the men and women who have laid the groundwork for the South Carolina Highway Patrol.

"The Highway Patrol has continued to grow and change to meet the evolving needs of our state, but what doesn't change is the pride and tradition on which this organization was founded, and we are confident that this group will continue to build on this tradition."

The Patrol presents awards to outstanding troopers from each graduating class.

Winners from the 93rd class include:

- **Tonya G. Kelley**, Hometown: Greenwood; **Winner of the Colonel P.F. Thompson Outstanding Achievement Award:** for the trooper who displays the character and dedication symbolic of former Highway Patrol Colonel P.F. Thompson, the longest serving Patrol commander.
- **Anthony T. Ashley**, Hometown: Anderson; **Captain Cecil Dilworth Marksmanship Award:** presented to the trooper who had the best marksmanship during firearms training.
- **David G. Jackson**, Hometown: Charleston; **Winner of the Israel Brooks Jr. Physical Fitness Award:** presented to the trooper who excelled on the physical training test and excelled each day during the early morning exercises.

Troopers are assigned to areas based upon population, calls for service, and the number of licensed drivers/registered vehicles in an area. The troopers from Basic 93 are designated to the counties found in the link below, along with their home counties and photos.

<http://www.scdps.gov/schp/class93pictures.asp>

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Media: You can download photos of the individual troopers, a class roster with duty assignments and pictures from today's ceremony at www.scdps.gov/schp/class92pictures.asp.



South Carolina Department of Public Safety

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 28, 2013

Contact: Sgt. Bob Beres, 803-608-8013

SC HIGHWAY PATROL GRADUATES 33 NEW TROOPERS

Gov. Nikki Haley Addresses Graduates

COLUMBIA -- The South Carolina Highway Patrol announces the graduation of 33 troopers from Highway Patrol Basic Class 92 on Friday. Gov. Nikki Haley spoke to the graduates about the sacrifices of law enforcement and the importance of character as they go out to represent their communities around the state. The governor has spoken at the last four Highway Patrol graduation ceremonies.

"You have proven yourself to be able to wear this uniform but now there is something else you have to prove," Gov. Haley told graduates. "You have brothers and sisters who have come before you and wearing that badge and wearing that uniform means something," Haley said. "So when you are out in the community, you have a responsibility. When you are not in uniform they still expect you to have the same integrity, the same demeanor as when you are wearing a uniform."

Basic 92 will bring the total number of troopers in South Carolina to 762. The troopers began training in January and have been trained by the Highway Patrol and Criminal Justice Academy over the past 21 weeks in all areas of law enforcement including DUI detection, traffic laws, collision investigation and the use of firearms as well as three weeks of field training.

Director Leroy Smith said, "Being a public servant isn't just what we do, it's who we are. You have to have a passion to help one another and I know that passion resides in each and every one of you. Law enforcement is a calling. It is more than just a paycheck. It is more than just a pension. You are now in the lifesaving business. That's what we do and we do it well."

SCHP Col. Mike Oliver said, "You have now earned the privilege to wear the grey uniform and campaign hat of a South Carolina state trooper. Your training has been long and difficult, the vocation you have taken as a public servant is likewise a difficult journey, your time away from home, however, has been to serve a greater good."

The Patrol presents awards to outstanding troopers from each graduating class. Winners from the 92nd class include:

- **Benjamin J. Lewis**: Hometown, Florence; Winner of the Colonel P.F. Thompson Outstanding Achievement Award: for the trooper who displays the character and dedication symbolic of former Highway Patrol Colonel P.F. Thompson, the longest serving Patrol commander.
- **Benjamin J. Lewis**: Captain Cecil Dilworth Marksmanship Award: presented to the trooper who had the best marksmanship during firearms training.
- **Leland W. Shealy**: Hometown, Columbia; Winner of the Israel Brooks Jr. Physical Fitness Award: presented to the trooper who excelled on the physical training test and excelled each day during the early morning exercises.

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<http://www.scdps.gov/schp/class95pictures.asp> (This link includes graduate photos, roster, hometown, and county of assignment)



South Carolina Department of Public Safety

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 18, 2014

Contact: Sgt. Bob Beres, 803-608-8013

SC HIGHWAY PATROL GRADUATES 40 NEW TROOPERS

Gov. Nikki Haley Offers Words of Encouragement to New Graduates

COLUMBIA –The South Carolina Highway Patrol announces the graduation of 40 troopers from Highway Patrol Basic Class 95 today. Gov. Nikki Haley addressed the graduates, as she has for the past seven Highway Patrol graduation ceremonies

Haley told graduates that when they wear the uniform, they represent “everything we hold dear.”

“Our troopers get this. It is about the people. It is about serving. It is about doing what is right,” Gov. Haley told the graduates, “Over 900 people applied, and 40 of you made it. Don’t waste that. It is too precious. Enjoy this moment. Soak it in; you have earned it.”

Basic 95 brings the total number of troopers in South Carolina to 782. An additional 39 troopers will report to the Academy on January 23 to begin the 96th Basic Class.

“People in communities and counties around South Carolina anticipate the arrival of this outstanding class of new troopers who will enhance safety on our roadways,” said SCDPS Director Leroy Smith. “This group has received the very best training, and today they make us proud.”

Troopers are assigned to areas based upon population, calls for service, and the number of licensed drivers/registered vehicles in an area. The troopers from Basic 95 are designated to the counties found in the link below, along with their home counties and photos.

“These past 21 weeks, you have learned the Highway Patrol Core Values: Selfless Service, Integrity, Responsibility,” said Highway Patrol Col. Mike Oliver. “Now, it is time to put those core values into practice -- sometimes under difficult and dangerous conditions. The life of a state trooper is demanding but equally rewarding.”

Each graduation, the Patrol presents distinguished awards to outstanding troopers from each class. The winners from the 95th class include:

- **Winner of the Colonel P.F. Thompson Outstanding Achievement Award:** for the trooper who displays the character and dedication symbolic of former Highway Patrol Colonel P.F. Thompson, the longest serving Patrol commander: **John C. Seigler, Home County: Richland; Assignment: Richland.**
- **Captain Cecil Dilworth Marksmanship Award:** presented to the trooper who had the best marksmanship during firearms training: **Aaron S. Cobb Home County: Spartanburg; Assignment: Charleston/Berkeley.**
- **Winner of the Israel Brooks Jr. Physical Fitness Award:** presented to the trooper who excelled on the physical training test and excelled each day during the early morning exercises. **Blake J. Cornelius, Home County: Kershaw; Assignment: Chester/Fairfield**



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South Carolina Department of Public Safety

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 27, 2014

Contact: Sgt. Bob Beres, 803-608-8013

SC HIGHWAY PATROL GRADUATES 43 NEW TROOPERS

Gov. Nikki Haley Welcomes New Graduates

COLUMBIA -- The South Carolina Highway Patrol announces the graduation of 43 troopers from Highway Patrol Basic Class 94 today. Gov. Nikki Haley addressed the graduates for the sixth consecutive ceremony.

Haley told the graduates that they will stand out in their communities and people will look up to them now because they wear the uniform of the Highway Patrol.

"There is great power that comes with that uniform," Haley said. "There is great respect, but that respect doesn't come from putting it on but how you act in that uniform."

The Governor encouraged the troopers' families to always support and encourage them so that they can be prepared for the hard jobs they do each day. "It's in their blood to serve," Haley said. "It's for that reason, they will be great at it."

Basic 94 brings the total number of troopers in South Carolina to 780. The troopers began training in January. They graduated from the Criminal Justice Academy on May 9 and continued on for specialized training from the Patrol in all areas of law enforcement, including DUI detection, traffic laws, collision investigation and the use of firearms. They have trained for 21 weeks and will begin another four to six weeks of field training upon graduation.

"This class continues the outstanding tradition of protecting, serving and educating our residents and visitors of the Palmetto State," said SCDPS Director Leroy Smith. "I remain grateful for the continued support of Gov. Haley and the General Assembly for funding us in a way that allows us to continue to place new troopers in our communities around the state."

"You have made an investment in the South Carolina Highway Patrol and we have made an investment in you," Col. Mike Oliver told the graduates. "You are our future ... the bridge from our past to our next generation. Thank you in advance for the sacrifices you will make to serve others."

Each graduation, the Patrol presents distinguished awards to outstanding troopers from each class. The winners from the 94th class include

- **Chad J. Goetzman, Hometown: Milford, Penn.; County of Assignment: Horry; Winner of the Colonel P.F. Thompson Outstanding Achievement Award:** for the trooper who displays the character and dedication symbolic of former Highway Patrol Colonel P.F. Thompson, the longest serving Patrol commander.
- **Chad J. Goetzman, Captain Cecil Dilworth Marksmanship Award:** presented to the trooper who had the best marksmanship during firearms training.
- **Yakabir J. Cobb, Hometown: North Plainfield, N.J.; County of Assignment: York; Winner of the Israel Brooks Jr. Physical Fitness Award:** presented to the trooper who excelled on the physical training test and excelled each day during the early morning exercises.

Troopers are assigned to areas based upon population, calls for service, and the number of licensed drivers/registered vehicles in an area. The troopers from Basic 94 are designated to the counties found in the link below, along with their home counties and photos.

<http://www.scdps.gov/schp/class94pictures.asp>

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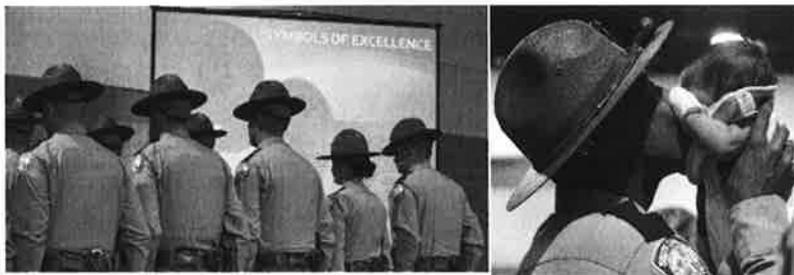
South Carolina Department of Public Safety

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 17, 2015

Contact: Sgt. Bob Beres, 803-608-8013

SC HIGHWAY PATROL GRADUATES 40 NEW TROOPERS
Gov. Nikki Haley Speaks To New Graduates



COLUMBIA -- The South Carolina Highway Patrol announces the graduation of 40 troopers from Highway Patrol Basic Class 97 today. Gov. Nikki Haley addressed the graduates.

"I think it is so incredibly important to honor what you have gone through and to talk to you about being part of the South Carolina team," Gov. Haley said.

"With that uniform comes a lot of power. You can't demand respect; you have to earn respect. You are someone that everyone needs to trust. You are the good guys ... I saw that firsthand as we went through three tragedies this past year."

Basic 97 brings the total number of troopers in South Carolina to 772. An additional class will report to the Academy in January to begin the 98th Basic Class. The troopers began training on July 19 and graduated from the Criminal Justice Academy on October 30. An additional five pre-certified officers joined on October 18.

They continued with specialized training from the Highway Patrol in all areas of law enforcement. The SCHP Basic Training Program consists of 21 weeks of extensive law enforcement training in-residence. After graduation, Troopers must complete a minimum of 400 hours of field training.

"As law enforcement faces increasingly varied and complex challenges, we are pleased to welcome this new class of men and women who are well-trained and ready to meet those challenges," said SCDPS Director Leroy Smith.

Troopers are assigned to areas based upon population, calls for service, and the number of licensed drivers/registered vehicles in an area. The troopers from Basic 97 are designated to the counties found in the link below, along with their home counties and photos.

<http://www.scdps.gov/schp/class97pictures.asp>

"Today, we welcome 40 troopers to our ranks, and as we do, we encourage them to remember the foundation and legacy of those who came before them," said Highway Patrol Col. Mike Oliver. "It is a privilege to wear this uniform and serve the great State of South Carolina."

At each graduation, the Patrol presents distinguished awards to outstanding troopers from the class. The winners from the 97th class include:

- **Winner of the Colonel P.F. Thompson Outstanding Achievement Award: Jonathan M. Vandenberg, Home County: Hudsonville, MI; Assignment: Troop 7: Orangeburg/Calhoun.** For the trooper who displays the character and dedication symbolic of former Highway Patrol Colonel P.F. Thompson, the longest serving Patrol commander.
- **Captain Cecil Dilworth Marksmanship Award: Joshua R. Newsome, Home County: Cheraw; Area of Assignment: Lancaster/Chesterfield;** Presented to the trooper who had the best marksmanship during firearms training.
- **Winner of the Israel Brooks Jr. Physical Fitness Award: Brian D. Hannigan, Home County: West Babylon, NY; Area of Assignment: Troop Six: Colleton/Dorchester;** presented to the trooper who excelled on the physical training test and excelled each day during the early morning exercises.

[Click Here to View HP Basic 97 Graduation](#)

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South Carolina Department of Public Safety

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 June 18, 2015
 Contact: Your Local CRO, 803-896-8144

SC HIGHWAY PATROL GRADUATES 42 NEW TROOPERS



COLUMBIA –The South Carolina Highway Patrol announces the graduation of 42 troopers from South Carolina Highway Patrol Basic Class 96 today.

Basic 96 brings the total number of troopers in South Carolina to 768. The troopers began training in January. They graduated from the Criminal Justice Academy on May 8 and continued on for specialized training from the Patrol in all areas of law enforcement, including DUI detection, traffic laws, collision investigation and the use of firearms. They have trained for 21 weeks and will complete another 400 hours of field training upon graduation.

The Highway Patrol received 1,777 applications and 910 applicants were referred for processing for SCHP Basic 96.

“Troopers from this class will head to communities all over the State of South Carolina and will be welcomed with open arms as they work to make our roadways and communities safer,” said SCDPS Director Leroy Smith. “We are thankful for their commitment to this noble and selfless calling of public service.”

“I am so proud of the men and women sitting before me today,” said Highway Patrol Col. Mike Oliver. “This is your calling ... as law enforcement, you are first on the scene. You are the courageous ones there to protect others and to protect our freedoms.”

The Highway Patrol presents distinguished awards to outstanding troopers from each class. The winners from the 96th class include:

- **Andrew L. Blair, Hometown: Greenville, South Carolina; County of Assignment: Greenville; Winner of the Colonel P.F. Thompson Outstanding Achievement Award:** for the trooper who displays the character and dedication symbolic of former Highway Patrol Colonel P.F. Thompson, the longest serving Patrol commander.
- **Christopher J. Cobb, Hometown: Anderson, South Carolina; County of Assignment: Greenville; Captain Cecil Dilworth Marksmanship Award:** presented to the trooper who had the best marksmanship during firearms training.
- **Fritz McHerron, Hometown: Lynwood, Illinois; County of Assignment: Lexington; Winner of the Israel Brooks Jr. Physical Fitness Award:** presented to the trooper who excelled on the physical training test and excelled each day during the early morning exercises.

Troopers are assigned to areas based upon population, calls for service, and the number of licensed drivers/registered vehicles in an area. The troopers from Basic 96 are designated to the counties found in the link below, along with their home counties and photos.
<http://www.scdps.gov/schp/class96pictures.asp>

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